

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

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OPINION 527

Interpretation under the Plenary Powers of the nominal
species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836 (Class
Crinoidea)

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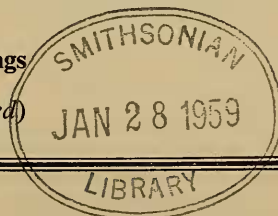
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 527

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(12th August 1953)

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Canberra, A.C.T., Australia*) (15th October 1954)

Dr. Alden H. MILLER (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.*)
(29th October 1954)

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Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*)
(16th December 1954)

OPINION 527

INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE NOMINAL SPECIES "ACTINOCRINUS GILBERTSONI" PHILLIPS, 1836 (CLASS CRINOIDEA)

RULING :—(1) Directions are hereby given under the Plenary Powers that the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836 (Class Crinoidea) be interpreted by reference to the specimen designated and figured as the neotype of that species by Wright (J.) (1955) and which, prior to being so designated, was figured also by that author in 1943.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 1312 :—

Amphoracrinus Austin (T.), Sr., 1848 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Roemer (F.A.), (1855): *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, as interpreted under the Plenary Powers in (1) above)

(3) The undermentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1576 :—

gilbertsoni Phillips, 1836, as published in the combination *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* and interpreted as directed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above (specific name of type species of *Amphoracrinus* Austin (T.), Sr., 1848)

(4) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 247 :—

AMPHORACRINIDAE Bather, 1899 (type genus :
Amphoracrinus Austin (T.), Sr., 1848)

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 21st December 1955 Mr. James Wright (*Edinburgh, Scotland*) submitted to the International Commission, through Mr. R. V. Melville (*Geological Survey and Museum, London*), the following request for a direction under the Plenary Powers as to the interpretation of the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, (Class Crinoidea) :—

Proposed determination under the Plenary Powers of the interpretation of the Nominal Species "Actinocrinus Gilbertsoni" Phillips, 1836 (Class Crinoidea)

By J. WRIGHT (*Edinburgh*)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give directions under its

Plenary Powers that the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836 (Class Crinoidea) be interpreted by reference to the neotype designated therefor by the present applicant in 1955 (Wright (J.), (1955 : 193).

2. The nominal species *Actinocrinus gilberstoni* Phillips (1836 : 206, pl. iv, fig. 19) was described from a single specimen (which is therefore the holotype) from the Carboniferous Limestone of "Bolland" in the collection of William Gilbertson. The holotype cannot be found in the British Museum (Natural History), where Gilbertson's collection is now housed. It has also been sought, without success, in the Geological Survey and Museum (London), the Sedgwick Museum (Cambridge), the Oxford University Museum, the Yorkshire Museum (York) and the museums of Bristol, Leeds, Blackburn, Preston, Manchester, Liverpool and Scarborough. It is therefore presumed lost.

3. The nominal genus *Amphoracrinus* was established by T. Austin, Jr. (1848 : 292) for the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, *A. crassus* and *A. granulatus* T. and T. Austin (1843 : 201) and a fourth unnamed species. *A. crassus* and *A. granulatus* were briefly described, but they were not figured, and since they were barely recognisable from the descriptions even at the time, *A. gilbertsoni* is virtually the only species eligible to be the type species of *Amphoracrinus*; it was first formally so selected by Wachsmuth and Springer (1881 : 329) (: 155 of separate), and no earlier selection of a type species for this genus is known.

4. The nominal family AMPHORACRINIDAE was proposed by Bather (1899 : 922) for the reception of this genus.

5. The specimen designated as neotype by the present author in 1955 agrees with what is known of the lost holotype. It was collected by the writer from the Carboniferous Limestone of Bellman Quarry, Clitheroe, Lancashire, which lies within the area of Bolland, the type-locality. It was described and figured by the author in 1943 (Wright, J., 1943 : 86, pl. iv, figs. 2—4, 9) as well as in 1955 (*loc. cit.*). It has been presented to the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh. This is a museum which has proper facilities for preserving type specimens and which gives research workers access to its collections. The following are attached to the specimen :—

- (1) White number-label 1954—20, the official registration number of the specimen.

- (2) The number 2406 written in indian ink, the number formerly given to the specimen in the writer's collection.
- (3) A red label marked "TYPE".
6. Accompanying the specimen are the following labels :—
- (1) "*Amphoracrinus gilbertsoni* (Phillips), Zone C, Bellman Quarry, Clitheroe."
- (2) "Figd. J. Wright, 1943, Geol. Mag. vol. lxxx, pl. iv, figs. 2—4, 9; 1955, Palaeont. Soc., pl. xlix, figs. 3, 16, pl. 1, figs. 3, 9."
- (3) "1954—20. Neotype—Wright."

7. The purpose of designating a neotype in this instance was to stabilise the usages of the binomen *Amphoracrinus gilbertsoni* (Phillips) and of the family-name AMPHORACRINIDAE in their accustomed sense and to protect these names from the instability that might at any moment arise so long as the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips is not defined by reference to a type specimen. This course is particularly desirable in the case of a crinoid such as *gilbertsoni* Phillips, for which it might otherwise be possible for some later author to give an interpretation different from that currently accepted, even though, as there is every reason to believe, the current interpretation is correct. Stability in the nomenclature of this group can only be assured if a neotype is designated for the present species and if its name and those of the immediately associated taxa are added to the appropriate *Official Lists*. The names in question are in each case the oldest available names for the taxa concerned. They are all in current use and have enjoyed uninterrupted usage since the dates of their respective first publication.

8. The International Commission is therefore requested to use its Plenary Powers :—

- (1) to give directions under its Plenary Powers that the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, be interpreted by reference to the specimen designated and figured as the neotype of that species by the present applicant in 1955 (: pl. xlix, figs. 3, 16; pl. 1, figs. 3, 9) and, prior to being so designated, figured also by the same author in 1943 (: pl. iv, figs. 2, 3, 4, 9);
- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*: *Amphoracrinus* Austin (T.), Jr.,

1848 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection, by Wachsmuth & Springer (1881): *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, interpreted as specified in (1) above) ;

- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* : *gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, as published in the combination *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni*, interpreted as specified in (1) above (specific name of type species of *Amphoracrinus* Austin (T.), Jr., 1848) ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—AMPHORACRINIDAE Bather, 1899 (type genus : *Amphoracrinus* Austin (T.), Jr., 1848).

References

- Austin, T., Jr., 1848. "Observations on the Cystidea of M. von Buch and the Crinoidea generally" *Quart. J. geol. Soc.*, **4** : 291—4
- Austin, T. and Austin, T., Jr., 1843. "Descriptions of several new genera and species of Crinoidea" *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, **11** : 195—207
- Bather, F. A., 1899. "A phylogenetic classification of the Pelmatozoa" *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 1898 : 916—23
- Phillips, J., 1836. *Illustrations of the Geology of Yorkshire. Part II. The Mountain Limestone District.* London
- Wachsmuth, C., and Springer, F., 1881. "Revision of the Palaeocrinoidea, Part II" *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.* **1881** : 177—411 (1—237), pls. xvii—xix
- Wright, J., 1943. "*Pimlicocrinus* gen. nov., and two new species of *Amphoracrinus* from the Carboniferous Limestone" *Geol. Mag.*, **80** : 269—83, pls. iii, iv
- Wright, J., 1955. "The British Carboniferous Crinoidea", vol. 2, pt. i. *Palaeont. Soc.*

2. On 11th November 1956 Mr. Wright submitted the following note containing two corrections on points of detail arising on the application which he had submitted in the present case :

I wish to draw attention to two errors of fact in my original application in this case. First, the author of the nominal genus *Amphoracrinus* is T. Austin, Sr., not T. Austin, Jr. as there stated (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 156). Secondly, the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, was selected as type species of *Amphoracrinus* by F. A. Roemer, 1855 (*in* Bronn and Roemer, *Lethaea Geognostica*, 3rd ed., 1 : 249—250) and not by Wachsmuth and Springer, 1881, as there stated (p. 156).

I am grateful to Dr. W. H. C. Ramsbottom and Professor G. Ubaghs respectively for drawing my attention to these errors.

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. **Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Wright's application the question of the interpretation of the nominal species *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836 (Class Crinoidea) was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1057.

4. **Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 20th April 1956 and was published on 20th July of that year in Part 5 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Wright, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 156—158).

5. **Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological

Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 20th July 1956 (a) in Part 5 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Wright's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications and to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America respectively.

6. Support received from R. E. Peck (University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A.) : On 15th October 1956 Dr. Raymond E. Peck (*University of Missouri, College of Arts and Science, Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A.*) addressed to the Office of the Commission the following note of support for the action recommended by the applicant in the present case (Peck, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 319) :—

This is to recommend approval of the request of Mr. J. Wright of Edinburgh that the species of *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips be interpreted by reference to the neotype designated by him.

Mr. Wright has made a very conscientious search for the holotype and has determined that there is slight possibility that it will ever be found. In these circumstances designation of a neotype by a specialist like Mr. Wright will be of great value to systematists working with Crinoidea.

7. Publication of a note of two minor corrections furnished by the applicant in the present case : As explained in paragraph 2 of the present *Opinion*, Mr. James Wright, the applicant, submitted on 11th November 1956 a note containing two corrections on points of detail arising on his application in the present case. The note so submitted, which has been reproduced in the paragraph referred to above, was published on 25th January 1957 (Wright, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 25).

8. Question of the possible survival of a syntype of "Actinocrinus gilbertsoni" Phillips, 1836 : On 15th January 1957 Mr. Leslie

Bairstow (*British Museum (Natural History)*) addressed a preliminary and informal letter to the Office of the Commission in which he discussed the possibility that some or all of the specimens attributed to *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips in the Gilbertson Collection now preserved in the British Museum (Natural History) might be unfigured syntypes of the above nominal species and raised the question whether in these circumstances it might be better that a lectotype should be selected from among the specimens referred to above rather than that approval should be given by the Commission to the neotype designated and figured by Wright in 1955. In the following month consultations took place between Mr. Bairstow and Mr. R. V. Melville and Dr. W. H. C. Ramsbottom of the Geological Survey and the possible syntypes of *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni* Phillips were examined. Mr. Bairstow expressed the view that there was a "strong probability" that the specimens in question were syntypes of the above species; Mr. Melville and Dr. Ramsbottom took the view that, as the syntype status of these specimens was not beyond doubt, only the Commission was in a position to give a definite Ruling and therefore that the case should go forward to the Commission as originally submitted. An agreed summary of these discussions was thereupon prepared and this later was incorporated (as Note 3) in the Voting Paper issued in this case (paragraph 10 below).

9. No objection received : Subject to the communication received from Mr. Bairstow (paragraph 8 above) no objection to the action proposed in this case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

10. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)33 : On 4th April 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)33) was issued in which the Members of

the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the specific name *gilbertsoni* Phillips, 1836, as published in the combination *Actinocrinus gilbertsoni*, as set out in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 8 on pages 157 to 158 of Volume 12 of *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*], subject to the adjustments specified in the supplementary note published on page 35 of Volume 13 of the above serial" [i.e. in the note reproduced in paragraph 2 of the present *Opinion*].

11. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 4th July 1957.

12. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)33 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)33 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received :—*

Hering ; Vokes ; Lemche ; Prantl ; Bonnet ; Esaki ;
Hankó ; Holthuis ; Boschma ; Jaczewski ; Dymond ;
Bodenheimer ; Tortonese ; Key ; do Amaral ; Riley ;
Bradley (J.C.) ; Stoll ; Hemming ; Mertens ; Cabrera ;
Mayr ; Kühnelt ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

Sylvester-Bradley ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned* :

None.

13. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 5th July 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)33, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 12 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

14. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " : On 22nd April 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)33.

15. Original References for Generic and Specific Names: The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Amphoracrinus Austin (T.), Sr., 1848, *Quart. J. geol. Soc. Lond.*
4 : 292

gilbertsoni, *Actinocrinus*, Phillips, 1836, *Ill. Geol. York.* (2) : 206

16. Reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus : The following is the reference for the selection of a type

species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For <i>Amphoracrinus</i>	Roemer (F.A.), 1855, in Bronn &
Austin (T.), Sr., 1848	Roemer, <i>Lethaea geogn.</i> (ed. 3)
	1 : 249—250

17. Reference for the designation of a neotype for a nominal species : The following is the reference for the designation of the neotype specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For <i>Actinocrinus gilbertsoni</i>	Wright (J.), 1955, <i>Brit. Carbonif.</i>
Phillips, 1836	<i>Crin.</i> 2(1) : pl. 49, figs. 3, 16 ;
	pl. 50, figs. 3, 9 [The specimen
	here figured had been figured by
	the same author in 1943 (<i>Geol.</i>
	<i>Mag.</i> 80 : pl. iv, figs. 2, 3, 4, 9)]

18. Reference for a family-group name : The following is the reference for the family-group name specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

AMPHORACRINIDAE Bather, 1899, *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 1898 : 922

19. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed Procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the undersigned Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

20. "Opinion" Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Twenty-Seven (527) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Second day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING